

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate
Change and Land Reform
Roseanna Cunningham MSP



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Gillian Martin MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land
Reform Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP

1 April 2020

Dear Gillian,

I am writing to update the Committee on arrangements for updating the Climate Change Plan in light of the current COVID-19 emergency.

We had originally committed to laying the update before Parliament by 30 April. This is no longer a practical option for a number of reasons, not least of which are the shock to the economy and the need to focus resources on immediate responses to the emergency. This makes it difficult to proceed on the basis we had originally envisaged.

In my view, we now also have to reconsider the approach we were originally taking. Once we can analyse and understand the implications of what is happening both socially and economically, the Climate Change Plan update will need to be recast to articulate a 'green pathway' to recovery that is in line with our Climate Change targets, including reaching net zero by 2045.

I would very much welcome the opportunity to engage with both yourself and the Committee on both the substantive issue but also options for alternative timing arrangements when appropriate.

In the meantime, I am asking the Committee on Climate Change to provide advice to us given the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves. A copy of the letter I will be issuing shortly to the Chair of the CCC is enclosed.

In terms of wider climate change work-planning arrangements over the coming months, we will continue to discharge, wherever possible, statutory reporting requirements. This will include the annual reports on; i) progress to the climate

change adaptation programme (due by the end of May) and ii) emissions reduction target outcomes (figures for emissions during 2018 are expected in mid-June, provided that Official Statistics continue to be available to the usual timetable).

Copies of this letter have been sent to the Presiding Officer, the First Minister and the Minister for Parliamentary Business. I am aware that several other Parliamentary Committees will also be scrutinising the Plan update once it is laid and would, therefore, be grateful if you could draw it to their attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cunningham'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping underline.

Roseanna Cunningham